

Serial No. 10/062,588 filed July 5, 2001  
Response of November 5, 2009  
to Office Action of August 10, 2009

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:

an article for holding a pot, said article comprising a ring, said ring being affixed to said article, ~~and~~ said ring comprising an opening and a slit, said slit comprising a first width,

wherein said ring has sufficient flexibility to allow a user to enlarge said first width of said slit to a greater width when force is applied by the user,

~~and~~ wherein said ring has memory such that, after ~~being~~ said ring is flexed, said slit will return to said first width when the force is removed; and,

wherein said article comprises an edge and wherein said slit intersects with said edge and said opening.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) An article as claimed in claim ~~17~~ 16, wherein said edge is an upper edge of said article.

19. (Currently Amended) An article as claimed in claim 16, wherein said ~~fastener can be used to suspend~~ ring allows suspension of said article from a rod, without removing the rod from its supports.

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Claims 20-24 (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:  
a towel-related product, said towel-related product comprising a ring,  
said ring being affixed to said towel-related product, ~~and~~ said ring comprising an opening and  
a slit, said slit comprising a first width,  
wherein said ring has sufficient flexibility to allow said slit to be enlarged from said first  
width of said slit to a greater width when force is applied by the user,  
and wherein said ring has memory such that, after ~~being~~ said ring is flexed, said slit will  
return to said first width when the force is removed; and  
wherein said article comprises an edge, and wherein said slit intersects with said edge and  
said opening.

26. (Previously Presented) An article as claimed in claim 16, wherein said article is an oven mitt.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) An article as claimed in claim 16, wherein said article is a potholder.

Claims 29 - 30 (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) An article as claimed in claim 25, wherein said edge is an upper edge  
of said article.

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32. (Currently Amended) An article as claimed in claim 25, wherein said ~~fastener can be used to suspend~~ ring allows suspension of said article from a rod, without removing the rod from its supports.
33. (New) An article of manufacture, comprising:  
a towel, said towel comprising a ring,  
said ring being affixed to said towel, said ring comprising an opening and a slit, said slit comprising a first width,  
wherein said ring has sufficient flexibility to allow said slit to be enlarged from said first width of said slit to a greater width when force is applied by the user,  
and wherein said ring has memory such that, after said ring is flexed, said slit will return to said first width when the force is removed; and  
wherein said article comprises an edge, and wherein said slit intersects with said edge and said opening.
34. (New) An article as claimed in claim 33, wherein said edge is an upper edge of said article.
35. (New) An article as claimed in claim 33, wherein said ring allows suspension of said article from a rod, without removing the rod from its supports.
36. (New) An article as claimed in claim 16, wherein said ring allows suspension of said article from a mounted support.

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- 37. (New) An article as claimed in claim 25, wherein said ring allows suspension of said article from a mounted support.
- 38. (New) An article as claimed in claim 33, wherein said ring allows suspension of said article from a mounted support.
- 39. (New) An article as claimed in claim 25, wherein said towel-related product is a utensil holder.
- 40. (New) An article as claimed in claim 25, wherein said towel-related product is a sponge.
- 41. (New) An article as claimed in claim 25, wherein said towel-related product is an accessory holder.
- 42. (New) An article as claimed in claim 25, wherein said towel-related product is a household product.